



Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

Executive Director: Robert S. Yeates

Divisions: Sentencing Commission
Board of Juvenile Justice
Sexual Violence Council
Council on Crime Victims
Crime Victim Reparations Board
Child and Family Cabinet Council
Substance Abuse/Anti Violence Coordinating Commission



Full Time Employees: 36

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Mission Statement: To promote broad philosophical agreement concerning the objectives of the criminal and juvenile justice system in Utah, facilitate coordination among criminal justice agencies and stakeholders, and coordinate statewide efforts to reduce crime and victimization

Emerging Issues and Strategic Focus:

Crime and substance abuse continue to be a concern to the people of Utah. Most Utahns have been touched in some way by crime and drugs—as victims, as substance abusers, as family and friends of perpetrators, and through the fear of crime. Sex offending, identity theft, drug abuse, especially methamphetamine use, cyber crime, domestic violence, and drunk driving top the list of crimes which are a focus of Utahns today.

The Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) fosters collaboration and coordinated planning among criminal and juvenile justice and substance abuse agencies with the goal of improving the response of the system to the broad range of issues facing each agency. Current efforts include criminal justice information systems; research on crime trends, sentencing, and treatment programs; public awareness campaigns on meth use, under-age drinking, and sexual exploitation of children; services for victims of domestic and sexual violence; and grants to fund law enforcement and treatment programs.

Crime Victim Reparations (CVR) provides financial aid to crime victims and supports victim services throughout the state. Assisting victims to rebuild their lives is one step in repairing the damage to society caused by violent crime.

Ensuring a fair and equitable justice system that protects the public is essential to quality of life in Utah. CCJJ and its boards and commissions have developed plans designed to achieve this goal.



Economic Development:

Efforts by state leaders to recruit new businesses and retain existing ones are enhanced by Utah's low violent crime rate. Keeping crime under control and providing effective law enforcement are essential to economic development in Utah. Current initiatives which impact economic development include:

- Reduce the impact of alcohol and drugs on Utah's workforce through education, treatment, and law enforcement
- Provide public information on Utah's low rates of violent crime and victimization



Quality of Life:

The criminal justice system has a primary role in ensuring quality of life in Utah—crime and the fear of crime can adversely affect all aspects of life in our community. CCJJ is working to improve quality of life in Utah through the following initiatives:

- Reduce the impact of methamphetamine on our community through education, treatment, and law enforcement
- Educate the public about the dangers of underage drinking
- Provide the tools needed to reduce drunk driving in Utah
- Assist the public in obtaining information about sex offenders through increased sex offender registration requirements
- Increase access to assistance for victims of sex offenses and domestic violence
- Provide financial assistance to victims of violent crime
- Increase victim access to notification about offender status, location, and hearings
- Address public concerns about the length of sex offender sentences
- Assist in developing a statewide strategy to address the growing numbers of mentally ill individuals in the criminal justice system
- Provide increased access to substance abuse treatment for felony offenders
- Educate the public on the dangers of internet crimes against children and how to avoid them
- Identify trends in crime and victimization and direct system focus to areas of concern
- Continue efforts to ensure fairness and equity in the juvenile justice system



Education:

Lack of education has been shown to be one of the strong predictors of recidivism in the criminal population. CCJJ's efforts in this area include:

- Assist in obtaining increased funding for prison educational programs
- Provide funding for after school programs
- Sponsor the *Do the Write Thing* Challenge in Utah schools that encourages 7th and 8th grade students to write about violence and solutions to the problems of violence
- Early childhood education investments



Governance:

Many of CCJJ's efforts are designed to improve governance in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. CCJJ assists agencies in obtaining the tools and resources they need to operate efficiently and effectively. Initiatives designed to improve governance include:

- Improve the accuracy and availability of criminal history information
- Provide information on police contacts with the public with the intention of improving police training programs
- Reduce the cost of Corrections and law enforcement through substance abuse treatment programs designed to reduce recidivism
- Provide technology designed to reduce the time required to issue a warrant or make an arrest